

Thursday September 13th 2007 Devereux Room, Green Dragon 7.30pm

There was a good turn out of people in our new venue of a meeting room upstairs in the Green Dragon. The room was good in that such a large group didn't impinge on the Lounge of the Hotel, though it was laid out rather formally.

Present: Richard Field, Mike Ledlie, Roger Lind, Naomi Bell, Mike Sullivan, David Plowman, Janet Shott, Gillian Bate, Rachel Allen, Derek Downard, John Fancourt, Becky Roseff, Gerald Dawe (Chair), Chris Shott, Richard Birt, Nick Jones, Paul.

We discussed the Newsletter; almost all 1000 copies have been distributed. Three new members as a result and possibly more as the post has not been collected for some while. The newsletter cost £575 plus postage to distribute. We felt membership should be able to support it. If we go for advertising it will compromise what we want to say.

The lottery bid will be decided end of September. This if people remember, was to put posters at Hereford, Colwall and Leominster containing four places to see in the town, four places to go to by train from the town, bus connections and information about the group. We also put in money for newsletters and speakers.

Gerald de-briefed us about the meeting on 7th September of the Cotswold and Malverns Transport Partnership, now chaired by Adrian Saunders, Rail Officer at Oxfordshire CC. Many issues were covered but linking in with tourist venues and bus rail connections were the main issues. Leaflets have been drafted for Moreton, already out of date! The next meeting in March 2008 will talk about operations and performance. There was also a presentation by Richard Rowlands of First Great Western, covering much of what he told us when he talked to us in Hereford in March.

The new franchise for Central is Govia. They have a good reputation apparently. Janet is contacting them to ask for a speaker. Rail Future have organised a meeting on 27 Sept 07 in Bham to discuss the new franchise. David Plowman intends to go.

We proposed new speakers, Govia (Janet to ask), Jim Davies, Hrfd Public Trsprt Officer and Station Manager (Becky to write). Charles Pickles of the Edgar Street Grid company has contacted the group asking if one or two of us could visit them and discuss how rail and the station fit in to the new design of ESG. They also would be willing to come and talk to the group.

We discussed again the lack of cover on the Taxi rank at the station and the two bus stops. Janet proposed writing to Council, noting the £25,000 under spend reported in our newsletter and asking if it could go to station improvements, of a bus shelter and timetables (one) and shelter for taxi rank.

Short discussion on rail journeys the last summer.

Next Meeting: Oct 11th 2007; 7.30-8.30 p.m. Devereux Room Green Dragon.